



# CODE CONNECTION

August/September 2002

## Jack Wants You to Know



The passage of HB 1211 during the last session of the General Assembly, which became effective on July 1, 2002, impacts code enforcement. This

bill establishes the ICC and NFPA standards as the basis for the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) to use in formulating and implementing building code provisions and regulations. The passage of this bill also declares the General Assembly's intent to:

- improve the conditions of existing commercial properties, particularly those in older cities.
- include contractors and additional code enforcement personnel, such as fire prevention workers, to be trained in the building code.

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## Visible House

The Visible House was featured at a recent Celebrate Fairfax Event. The Fairfax Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, through the Office of Building Code Services, assigned John Makely, a Fairfax County inspector, to design and supervise the building of the Visible House. This is a display that the Office of Building Code Services can take great pride in.



*John Makely, a Fairfax County inspector, designed and supervised the building of the Visible House.*

The Visible House displays code requirements throughout the structure. Plans are to use the Visible House in training modules conducted by the Virginia Building Code

Academy. Some of the comments related to this exhibit at the Celebrate Fairfax Event were: "a most informative exhibit with information that a lot of residents can use; clever "house" that displayed code requirements; enthusiastic and informative staff."

For more information on the success of the Visible House initiative, contact Carol Lamborn, Strategic Initiatives Manager for Fairfax County Government, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at (703)324-5034. □



*The Visible House displayed code requirements throughout the structure.*

# Good Things to Know

## 1. Department of Housing and Community Development Presents at International Conference

We will be presenting at the BOCA-ICBO-SBCCI 2002 Joint Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Our Virginia Building Code Academy's proposal to deliver an educational presentation that has been accepted by the authorities-in-charge is scheduled. The title for our presentation is "Inspection Training That Works, Or How We Learned to Read the Code: A Case Study". Members of the team delivering this presentation include Jack Proctor, Dan Gilham and David Humphrey. The focus of the presentation will be on the Code Academy's new electrical inspection training module and the use of portable training "walls" for hands-on, eyes-on teaching and learning. We have been scheduled for two sessions: Monday, September 30th from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, October 1st from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. You can see the presentation listed on the 2002 Conference Education Program. We hope to see you there!

## 2. Master Code Official

Richard Grace, a Plans Reviewer for Fairfax County, has joined the ranks of one of only 28 Master Code Officials in the state of Virginia. Richard teaches and has participated in the development and instruction of the new electrical inspection training module for the Virginia Building Code Academy. We congratulate

Richard on his Master Code Official Certification.

## 3. IAEE Conference

The International Association of Electrical Inspectors VA Chapter held the 66th Annual Meeting and Conference on June 9-11, 2002 at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach. Some of the features of the conference were: a panel of nationally recognized industry experts answering a list of prepared questions posed by contractors, engineers and inspectors from around the commonwealth; the opportunity to meet and confer with other inspectors, plan reviewers and engineers, and the endorsement of continuing education units (CEU's) awarded at the completion of the program.

## 4. VPMIA Summer Picnic and Conference

The Virginia Plumbing and

Mechanical Inspectors Association held their annual picnic and conference at Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA on July 12-13, 2002. Check out their web-site for more information - [www.vpmia.com](http://www.vpmia.com)

## 5. Adoption of International Codes

The tentative state time-line for the adoption of the new International Codes is still July 2003. We are currently on schedule and the process is moving along. Watch the "Code Connection" for more information.

## 6. Virginia Building Code Academy schedule

Watch our web-site [www.dhcd.state.va.us](http://www.dhcd.state.va.us) and a future Code Connection for a new Virginia Building Code Academy schedule. □

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- add fire prevention regulations promulgated by the BHCD to the subject areas of competency for which it may issue certificates of competency.
- increase the maximum rate of the surcharge on building permits from one to up to two percent for support of the Virginia Building Code Academy (VBCA).
- remove the \$500,000 annual revenue cap for the VBCA.
- establish a broadly representative Building Code Academy Advisory Committee to advise the BHCD on matters relating

to the delivery of training services provided by the VBCA.

- clarify that VBCA training may include fire prevention regulations.

Please note that the authorization to raise the surcharge on building permits from one to up to two percent for support of the VBCA and a new rehabilitation code training program will not be done right away. Any change in the surcharge will reflect the results of a review of the Academy's needs. The BHCD will announce any changes well in advance by email, the Code Connection, and direct mail from DHCD to all Code Officials in Virginia. □

# CODE ACADEMY

## World-Class Instructors

*“Wonderful class, great materials, world class instructors, you guys done good” constituted the comments of a student in the Code Academy’s new electrical inspection training module conducted in Abingdon on May 15 - 16, 2002. The “world-class instructors” who team-taught this class were Dean Fortney and Terry Moore, Fairfax County, and David Humphrey, Henrico County. The “Humphrey Wall” was used by the instructors throughout the class to simulate and conduct a real-world, hands-on, visual approach to teaching and learning the end-to-end electrical inspection process [based on the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 1996 National Electric Code (NEC)].*

A student-feedback session conducted by a third party, with the instructors and DHCD staff out of the room, yielded the following consensus comments (direct quotes):

- *“This is the best class I have attended.”*
- *“We need more classes like this.”*
- *“The instructors were great.”*
- *“A great classroom. We can all see the boards.”*
- *“These instructors know what they are talking about!!!”*
- *“It is great to have instructors who have been in the trenches and are knowledgeable.”*

In response to the question “has this training program been helpful to your professional development?”, one participant on their student evaluation form responded as follows (direct quote): “more than all the instruction I have received in the last 23 years from the state.” This participant added: “we will be able to provide our citizens with a safer existence through better inspections.”

By way of summary and conclusion, the following additional comments by building officials attending the class further express the relevance and benefits of this training: “I am very appreciative that you brought this training to our area. Extremely helpful, very informative, some of the best training I have had ...”. “Great course. Would highly recommend it for the beginning inspector as well as the seasoned veteran.” □



VBCA World Class Instructors include (left to right): Dean Fortney, Fairfax County; David Humphrey, Chesterfield County, and Terry Moore, Fairfax County.

# Stucco Settlement Consumer Alert

## Homeowners Nationwide May Benefit From Synthetic Stucco Settlement

***“The following is important information and I urge building officials to make this information known to your constituents.”***

***-Jack Proctor, DHCD  
Deputy Director, Division  
of Building and Fire  
Regulation***

Owners of residential properties clad with Exterior and Finish System components ("EIFS") manufactured by Dryvit Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of RPM, Inc., may be eligible to receive cash compensation, free property inspections, Moisture Free Warranties, and other benefits according to a Settlement pending in the Circuit Court for Jefferson County, Tennessee, at Dandridge before the Honorable Duane Slone in a class action lawsuit known as *Bobby R. Posey et al. v. Dryvit Systems, Inc.*, Civil Action No. 17, 715-IV.

Plaintiffs allege, among other things, that Dryvit EIFS is defective because it entraps water introduced into the exterior wall potentially causing damage to homes. The lawsuit seeks monetary relief from Dryvit. Dryvit denies Plaintiffs' claims and allegations. The Court has not ruled on the merits of the Plaintiffs' claims, or on defenses asserted by Dryvit.

All persons or entities who, as of June 5, 2002, owned a one- or two-family residential dwelling townhouse in any State other than North Carolina, clad, in whole or in part, with Dryvit EIFS installed after January 1, 1989 are eligible to participate in the Settlement. Persons who prior to June 5, 2002 have settled with Dryvit, providing a release of claims relating to Dryvit EIFS, or have obtained a judgment against Dryvit for a Dryvit EIFS claim, or had a final judgment entered against them on such claim in Dryvit's favor are not included in the Settlement Class.

Eligible individuals can determine the steps necessary to pursue their rights as Class Members by calling

1-800-320-9415 or visiting [www.stuccosettlement.com](http://www.stuccosettlement.com) to obtain a copy of the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement and Claim Form. Individuals may also request complete information by writing: Dryvit Claims, P.O. Box 1626, Faribault, MN 55021-1626.

"I urge all homeowners who believe that they may qualify for benefits under the terms of the Settlement to call the 1-800 number or visit [www.stuccosettlement.com](http://www.stuccosettlement.com) to find out how they can successfully join this Class Settlement and receive its benefits," said Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, Gary E. Mason, of The Mason Law Firm, PC in Washington, DC.

The benefits of the Settlement include free property inspections, a Dryvit Settlement Program Three-Year Limited Warranty, and cash contributions towards certain repair costs. To obtain benefits of the Settlement, Class Members must file a completed Claim Form, which includes information about the EIFS used on their property, by December 5, 2003.

A Fairness Hearing will be held on October 1, 2002 to determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate. Class Members who want to exclude themselves (opt out) from the Class must fill out and sign a Request for Exclusion form and return it post-marked no later than September 3, 2002. □



# DHCD Welcomes New Principal Deputy

The Department of Housing and Community Development is proud to welcome Basil I. Gooden to the agency. Basil was appointed by Governor Mark R. Warner in April to serve as the DHCD Principal Deputy Director.

Basil is a native of Buckingham County, Virginia. His experience in community and economic development spans more than ten years. His primary area of interest is in community-based organizations, economic advancement and community education in rural, urban, minority and economically disadvantaged populations. He previously worked to address rural housing issues as a Legislative Assistant with former



*DHCD welcomed Basil I. Gooden as the new Principal Deputy in May.*

U.S. Congressman L.F. Payne. Additionally, he served as a Legislative Fellow in the office of former U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb where he implemented community outreach initiatives to

enhance economic development. Most recently, Basil served as an Extension Specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension and as Coordinator of Outreach and Community Relations at Virginia Tech.

Basil is a graduate of Virginia Tech where he received a B.A. in Political Science. He also holds a Master of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. In addition, he is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a Master of Public Health degree and a Ph.D. in Social Work.

Since beginning his new job with DHCD in May, Basil has already been a great asset to the agency. Basil looks forward to working with building and fire code officials and other agency partners throughout the state. □

## Building Safety Week Follow-up

Building Safety Week was observed throughout Virginia on April 7-13, 2002. Many local building departments observed the week by speaking to students at schools, educating the public while in the building code office, or by putting up displays.

Charles City County had a particularly outstanding outreach program. The Building Official's office active-



*In celebration of International Building Safety Week in Charles City County, a large number of kids signed the IBSW poster display board.*

ly observed this year's International Building Safety Week by using the IBSW (International Building Safety Week) kit ordered from the Building Officials and Code Administrators International. The kit proved to be a great tool for this outreach program.

Moreover, a resolution recognizing the week of April 7-13, 2002 as IBSW was fully endorsed by the county's Board of Supervisors. The IBSW Proclamation 2002 was read into the minutes using the IBSW kit sample as a guide. Several posters were displayed throughout the Government Center.

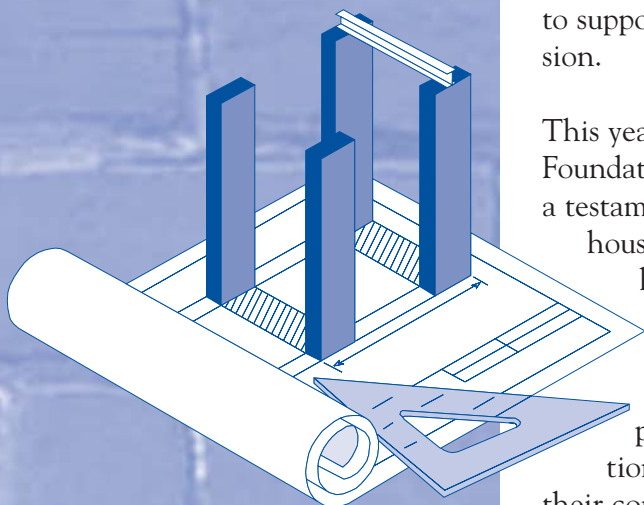
A program of public safety was presented at the local elementary school.

Each of the second grade students received the coloring book from the kit. The Building Official discussed the importance of the information on each page with active participation from the class. The third grade students each received the activity book and the Junior Inspector Checklist from the kit.

The program was presented to about 160 students, and with the help of the school staff, a great deal was accomplished. For instance, a large number of kids signed the display board on which an IBSW poster was attached. The local paper covered the program which contributed greatly to publicizing and advancing the celebration of IBSW in Charles City County. □

# **Housing – the Foundation for our Communities**

*This year's theme,  
Housing - the  
Foundation for our  
Communities, is a  
testament to the vital  
role that housing plays  
in developing healthy  
and sustainable  
communities.*



## **2002 Virginia Housing Conference September 11 -13, 2002**



Join us in Roanoke on September 11 -13 at the Hotel Roanoke for the 2002 Virginia Housing Conference - **the** most important event of the year for those interested in affordable housing and community development.

Each year hundreds of people from across the state participate in the Virginia Housing Conference to gain valuable knowledge and skills to support their programs and mission.

This year's theme, Housing - the Foundation for our Communities, is a testament to the vital role that housing plays in developing healthy and sustainable communities.

Sessions will focus on this theme and provide participants with information they need to better serve their communities.

There will be a variety of sessions and topics of interest for people working within the building code field including:

- Livable Communities: Design features that enhance the building of real community.
- Accessibility Laws: How they're working and how they're not.
- Spotlight on Fair Housing.
- State Housing Policy: Where we are, where we're headed.
- Manufactured Housing Policy: Weighing of the issues.
- What to Do When Your Lot Won't Perk: Options for affordable rural wastewater disposal.

This year's conference will also feature excellent keynote speakers such as Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine and offer incredible networking opportunities. Don't miss this chance to connect with policy makers, elected state and local officials, lenders, and housing providers - register today!

Call (804) 371-7171 to request a registration brochure or go to [www.dhcd.state.va.us](http://www.dhcd.state.va.us). There you can find more information about the conference and print off a registration form. Get registered by August 23 to receive a special discount.

We hope to see you in Roanoke. □

# State Fire Marshal's Office Introduces Fire Safety Game for Kids

Public schools in larger cities and counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia often have public safety educators from their local fire department come into the classrooms to teach fire safety. Public schools in smaller localities, and private schools, however, often do not have access to similar resources.

To help remedy this, the State Fire Marshal's Office has created an interactive computer program for elementary aged students. This program, in game format, teaches children about home fire safety, home fire escape, and outdoor fire safety.

"Sniffer's Fire Safety Game" comes on a CD with two versions per CD, one for 2nd grade level, and one for 5th grade level. Multiple-choice questions with lively, animated color graphics keep the students' interest. In testing the pro-

gram with children, some wanted to play the game multiple times. Each student who completes the program can receive a Junior Fire Marshal Certificate, which can be printed by the school from a floppy disk, or copied from a hard copy. Both formats are provided.

The program is the result of over a year of development and testing by the State Fire Marshal's Office and review by the Virginia Department of Education. Master copies of the CD are free to Virginia schools, fire departments, and other community organizations and can be copied for use. To request your free copy, send your mailing information to:

Sniffer Program  
Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office  
501 North Second St.  
Richmond, VA 23219  
E-mail [wbeachy@dhcd.state.va.us](mailto:wbeachy@dhcd.state.va.us)







Department of Housing and  
Community Development  
The Jackson Center  
501 North Second Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.dhcd.state.va.us](http://www.dhcd.state.va.us)

## Code Connection Subscription

"Code Connection" is published by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The purpose of the publication is to keep interested parties aware of events on the state and local levels. The newsletter addresses training schedules, interpretations by the Technical Review Board, and articles of interest to building and fire-prevention professionals.

"Code Connection" may be sent to you for a yearly subscription of \$12. Please make checks payable to: Treasurer of Virginia and mail to: DHCD, Training and Certification Office, 501 North Second Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## BOCA - Audio Virtual Seminars

**Kathleen Mihelich, Vice President**  
**Professional Development Services**

**B**uilding Officials and Code Administrator International, BOCA, is introducing the Audio Virtual Seminars. The four audio virtual seminars offered this year are about accessibility. These seminars will be led by BOCA staff accessibility expert Kim Paarlberg, AIA, and can be delivered anywhere there is access to a phone.

You can train multiple people at one time if you have access to a



speaker phone and the fee to connect to the seminar is not a per listener fee. Therefore, if you charged as lit-

tle as \$25 per person, only seven participants would pay for the connection!

You may obtain information about the seminars by visiting BOCA's web sit at [www.bocai.org](http://www.bocai.org). If you would like to talk to us personally, please feel free to call either Stacey Zurek at (708) 799-2300, extension 356 or JoAnn Froman at extension 331. □